

PO Box
19
Churchill
3842



President:
5122 3137

Friends of Morwell National Park Inc.

Newsletter August 2001

Website: <http://morwellnp.pangaean.net>

A0016319X

Park News

Welcome to our new members Ray and Reg Felmingham. Thanks go to Ray and Reg for delivering some of our Morwell National Park pamphlets to the Tourist Information Centre in Sale.

New track signs are currently being installed throughout the park. To date about half are in and we are also waiting for the remaining seats to be installed.

According to our Ranger, Rob Howell, our grant submissions are looking positive, with an official announcement expected at any time. (Confirmed at AGM)

For those with internet access, the Parks Victoria website at <http://www.parkweb.vic.gov.au> has been updated to provide a direct link to the Morwell National Park website. From the Parks Victoria home page, click on **Working Together** in the index banner on left of screen, then click on **Friends Groups** to bring up a map of Victoria, click on **Gippsland** under the map, then scroll down to Friends of Morwell National Park where the website link is highlighted and underlined

We are certainly receiving some good press lately, with another excellent article appearing in the Latrobe City Link magazine, included with the LV Express on Monday, July 16. It provides a good description of the walking tracks within the Park, as well as general history and information.

Some enquiries were made as to why we weren't informed as usual of the Friends Conference held at Wilsons Promontory on March 30. Apparently, it is now policy not to inform the Friends Groups directly, but the information is available on the Parks Victoria website if you know where to look. We will enquire further.

August Activity

Our next activity is scheduled for Sunday, August 19, 2001 at 10.00am. We will meet at the Junction road carpark for another tree planting session, filling in some more gaps along Billy's Creek. Please remember to bring your own lunch and refreshments, suitable clothing for brilliant sunshine, cloud, fog, rain, hail, sleet and, who knows, even snow, your guess is as good as mine. Footwear for falling in the creek is recommended.

Annual General Meeting – 5/08/01

The minutes of our meeting are as follows:-

Committee Meeting declared open 1342hrs.

Attendance: Ed Steenbergen (President), Ken Harris (Vice President), Wendy Steenbergen (Treasurer), Rob Howell, Dorothy Reinkowsky, Danny Barclay, John Pulis, Dennis Sultana, Jane Sultana, Michael Beamish, Cathy Beamish.

Apologies: Anne Bailey (Secretary)

New Members: Dennis and Jane Sultana were accepted unanimously as new members.

Committee Meeting suspended 1343hrs.

Annual General Meeting declared open 1344hrs.

Minutes of the previous AGM were read and accepted as a true account. (Ken Harris)

The President's Report (copy included) was read and accepted. (Jane Sultana)

The Ranger's Report (copy included) was read and accepted. (Cathy Beamish)

The Treasurer's Report (copy included) was read and accepted. (John Pulis)

Election of Office Bearers:

President- Ken Harris.	(Nom- Ed Steenbergen, Sec- John Pulis)
Vice President- Ed Steenbergen.	(Nom- John Pulis, Sec- Dorothy Reinkowsky)
Secretary- Jane Sultana.	(Nom- Cathy Beamish, Sec- Wendy Steenbergen)
Treasurer- Wendy Steenbergen	(Nom- John Pulis, Sec- Dennis Sultana)
Publicity- Danny Barclay	(Nom- Cathy Beamish, Sec- John Pulis)
Newsletter- Michael Beamish	(Nom- Cathy Beamish, Sec- Ed Steenbergen)

General Business:

Motion that the membership fee structure will remain unchanged at \$10 per person or \$15 per family or group. Passed unanimously. (Wendy Steenbergen, Sec- Dorothy Reinkowsky)

Motion that recommended payment of the Incorporation Fee forthwith. Passed unanimously. (Dennis Sultana, Sec- Cathy Beamish)

Annual General Meeting closed 1415hrs.

Committee Meeting reconvened 1416hrs.

Minutes of the previous Committee Meeting on 4/3/01 were read and accepted as a true account. (Ken Harris)

General Business:

The information posters have been completed, with some on display at the Kerry Road carpark and the remainder in storage.

With regard to last year's grants, all purchasing of materials is completed and monies expended.

General discussion followed regarding the project of revegetation on Blue Gum Hill. The project requires construction of trial plot fencing and manufacture of clayballs for direct seeding trials. A suitable source of clay is required, to be investigated by Rob Howell.

The calendar of activities for the forthcoming year was discussed and a draft calendar outlined.

Treasurer's Report was presented and accepted. (Cathy Beamish)

Reg and Ray Felmingham were accepted as new members, unanimously.

Correspondence was received from:

Minister for Environment and Conservation, Sherryl Garbutt- re success of grant application for revegetation of Blue Gum Hill.

Minister for Environment and Conservation, Sherryl Garbutt and Morwell MLA, Keith Hamilton- re enquiries from our group on the status of proposed extensions to Morwell National Park.

Australian Plant Society LV Secretary, Chris Horne- re membership fees and contact details.

Accepted. (John Pulis, Sec- Wendy Steenbergen)

Committee Meeting closed 1630hrs.

President's Report

Another eventful year has passed, having made great contributions to Morwell National Park.

I'd like to open by expressing a big thank you to the committee of the last year, and all members new and old for their contributions and enthusiasm in regard to the works at MNP.

Revegetation continues to be a significant emphasis of FMNP with just a few pockets of flats to be filled and variety increased. Having collected what seed we could in the past dry summer, propagation was successful and planting weather was comfortable. It has been a large, energetic workforce, with the areas cleared of willows the main focus.

The eradication of weeds within the Park continues. The careful removal of Tutsan and willow branches were done by some very focussed teams. The burning of the willow piles was attempted by Parks Victoria, presenting a suitable area for planting.

Publicity in the newspaper has been great, with monthly notices for coming activities and special reports on the Park in council publications. The printing of 20,000 brochures was completed with the grant funds and some from the book sales. This can now be spread far and wide as a motivational brochure to expose the Morwell National Park as a significant Gippsland feature.

Our success at gaining grants from Parks Victoria has continued. Even though the financial paperwork has changed, we still have input for the direction of the applications. We have finished the report for track signage and brochures, and we have been successful at another grant for Rob to spend.

Now that we have a motivational brochure, improved track notes, track signage and new seats along the tracks, the Park is becoming a very user-friendly asset for the local community and visitors.

I'd like to conclude by thanking our dedicated Ranger, Rob Howell, without his skills and knowledge we'd be floundering and we'd be a lot poorer. Thanks Rob.

Ed Steenbergen
5/08/01

RANGER'S REPORT – MORWELL NP 2000/01

A wildfire occurred in the Fosters Gully area in January this year. Fortunately, it was detected early in the morning and controlled while still quite small. As a part of the rehabilitation works done on the fire site, the Fosters Gully walking track was re-routed to bypass the old stairs at a gentler gradient and received new treated pine edging.

Further spraying of Blackberries was done in the Side Creek and Lodge Track areas using Good Neighbour funds to pay contractors. Have a look at the results if you are in that area.

A change to the way Parks Vic administers its Volunteer Grants resulted in a busy few months finishing off works relating to the 1999/2000 Grant and the two for 2000/2001. This resulted in the following:

- Purchase of 2 folding trestle tables for use in seedling propagation
- Purchase of stakes and other planting/propagation materials
- Purchase of fencing materials for direct seeding on Blue Gum Hill
- Improvements to the surface and formation of Clematis & Blue Gum Hill Tracks
- Signposting and seats for Billys Creek Tracks
- Development and printing of new Parknotes for Billys Creek area and tracks
- Improvements to Junction Rd carpark, including safer entrance & exit points

Much good work has been done by the Friends in the tedious process of removing Willows which escaped the attention of the WGCMA and detecting regenerating ones on the treated sites. This job will need to be followed up for many years to keep the creek Willow-free; this could be pleasant work to do on a warm summer day.

The large heaps of Willow material along the creek were burnt with mixed results; some burnt away quite well, while others were too wet to burn at all. However, tree planting can now go ahead on all the cleared sites and is progressing very well at present.

Lastly, a link has been set up to enable people to access the Friends of MNP web site directly from the Parkweb site (via the Volunteers section).

Many thanks to all Friends for their efforts, which have made this a very good year for achievements in Morwell National Park.

Rob Howell
RANGER

Treasurer's Report

Main Account:

Balance 30/6/00:		\$4092.18
Receipts:	Membership Fees	\$ 185.00
	Interest	\$ 23.29
	Ellen Lyndon Estate	<u>\$1000.00</u>
		\$1208.29
Payments:	Incorporation Fee	\$ 32.00
	Grant 1999/2000	\$3835.00
	Brochures	\$ 884.38
	Government Tax	<u>\$ 7.02</u>
		\$4758.40

Term Deposit:

Balance 30/6/01:		\$ 542.07
Balance 30/6/00:		\$3179.19
Receipts:	Interest	\$ 112.17
Payments:	Government Tax	\$ 0.06
Balance 30/6/01:		\$3291.30

Book Account:

Balance 30/6/00:		\$ 968.32
Receipts:	Book Sales	\$ 620.00
	Interest	\$ 5.46
Payments:	Government Tax	\$ 0.38
Balance 30/6/01:		\$1593.40

Revised Calendar

The revised calendar for the remainder of this year is shown below. We have also sketched out a proposed calendar for 2002, but to avoid confusion I won't print this until the December issue.

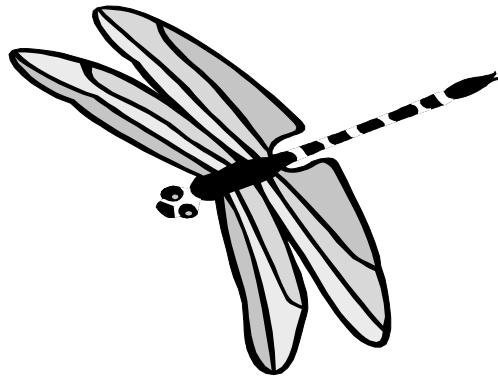
<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Venue and Time</u>
August 19	Tree Planting	Junction Road, 10.00am
September 16	Tree Planting	Junction Road, 10.00am
October 21	Koala Count	Foster's Gully, 1.30pm
November 18	Clayball Manufacture	Propagation Shed, 10.00am
December 16	Clayball Manufacture Seed Collection Christmas Function	Propagation Shed, 1.30pm

Tree Planting Number 2 – 15/7/01

Another good turnout of the regulars resulted in over 400 plants being planted. These included Swamp Gum, Silver Wattle, Manna Gums, Blackwood and Daisy Bush. The weather was a bit unco-operative with a few heavy showers, but we managed to eat our lunch without getting wet, just.

The dampness of the grass presented Michael with a couple of challenges when it came to driving the 4WD into the planting areas, as he was following Rob who was able to get the better traction. The only wild life we saw for the day were 2 steers that came and watched our efforts. We fed them grass when we needed a break.

The terrain presented a few challenges as there was a lot of grass that had to be cleared before the holes could be dug for the trees to go into. Our appreciation goes to Jane, as she spent the better part of the day hacking away at the grass. We were considering giving up for the day before she decided that her back had had enough. Well done! The main reason for giving up a little earlier than usual (apart from most people being too tired to continue) was that we had run out of tree guards again. Rob and Cathy had already gone and collected another load of guards, which were put to use quite quickly, but the last heavy shower convinced us that we had had enough. So after searching around for a misplaced hole digger, we eventually found and packed up everything and the lazy ones hitched a ride back to the cars, while the others walked back in the rain.



Subscriptions

It is that time of the year again, so here is the cut-off slip for payment of your outstanding membership fees. Please ignore it if you are already paid up.

To: Treasurer, Friends of Morwell National Park, PO Box 19, Churchill, 3842

Please find enclosed the amount of \$_____ (\$10 per person, \$15 per family/group) being for membership 2001/2002.

Name:.....Telephone:.....

Address:.....